
From: SMITH, PATRICK <PATRICK.SMITH@new-haven.k12.ct.us>
Sent: Tuesday, February 19, 2013 2:26 PM
To: AppropriationTestimony
Subject: commentary in FAVOR of after-school programming in New Haven and CT in general

19 February, 2013

RE: After School Program Funding Cuts

To who it may concern,

I have been teaching in the inner city for 17 years and elsewhere for 20 years beyond that. The emotional and intellectual benefits afforded our students during after school hours has kept many of them IN school during the regular school day. Students on the "bubble" between success and failure in school have found support, understanding, and the personal attention they often lack in the outside world. One of my former students who I am very proud to report, recently graduated from Harvard Business School with an MBA, wrote in his Harvard Admission Essay just how much his high school "after school" extracurricular life experiences informed his decision making and taught him how to believe in himself as a student and a positive member of society.

The media would have you believe that the inner city is the worst possible place you would want to send your kids to school, when the truth is that some of the kindest, most generous, caring and sincere students I have ever known come from right here, downtown New Haven.

Cut's have been made across the board in state funding. The reasons for these cuts are argued daily on all fronts. As is usually the case, the people who actually benefit from the programs being slashed are the kids.

Please find a way to fund after school programs around the state, especially in the "inner city", otherwise the biggest "crime" being committed will have been perpetrated by our elected leaders, not the people on the streets.

Sincerely,

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